

MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2016

Members in Attendance: Maureen St. Hilaire, Beverley Bevilaqua, Cynthia DeAngelis, Susan James, Michael Rademacher, Liza Molina, Kerrie Fallon
Susan Tennant

Members Absent: Patrick Quinn

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2016:

Cynthia DeAngelis made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2016 seconded by Susan James. SO VOTED

Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2016:

Michael Rademacher made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2016, seconded by Maureen St. Hilaire. SO VOTED

Regional Commission on Disability Meeting:

Jack Jones, Susan James and Maureen St. Hilaire said that they planned to attend the Regional Commission on Disability Meeting to be held in Andover Massachusetts on April 27, 2016. Liza Molina and Cynthia DeAngelis said that they would attend if their schedules permitted.

Robbins Library Display (July 2016):

Darcy Devney said she reserved, for the Commission on Disability, an exhibit table at the Robbins Library. This exhibit table is scheduled for use by the Commission during the month of July 2016. Maureen St. Hilaire, Kerrie Fallon, Cynthia DeAngelis and Jack Jones said that they would all volunteer in setting up a display at the exhibit table. Michael Rademacher suggested that the display include available programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Susan James said that the exhibit table will also have a vertical board that could be used for hanging Commission newsletters. Maureen St. Hilaire said that the twenty-five year anniversary of the signing of the A.D.A should be recognized at the exhibit table. Cynthia DeAngelis said that each volunteer who works on preparing the exhibit table should focus on a given area of disabilities. Cynthia said that she would like to focus on education and autism. Liza Molina said that a section of the table could be on famous people with disabilities. Cynthia suggested that the Commission appoint one person to co-ordinate the volunteers working on the exhibit table.

Sidewalk Dining:

Jack Jones said that to date he has received seven applications from restaurants requesting outside dining permits. Jack said that the following Departments have been requested by the Board of Selectmen to respond to each outside dining application. These Departments are the Board of Health, Building, Planning and ADA Compliance. Jack said that he is mainly concerned

that restaurants maintain an absolute minimum clear path for pedestrian travel of 36", and that at least 5% of seats are accessible. Susan James mentioned that a clear unobstructed path of travel should be consistent within a block either against the building or next to the curb. Cynthia DeAngelis said that when Darcy Devney and she walk the Avenue for determining locations for adding handicapped parking locations they would check to verify that a clear path of travel exists at restaurants providing sidewalk dining. Maureen St. Hilaire said that a rope or barrier would be a good way to separate the outside dining area from the path of travel. Michael Rademacher said that the Commission should have a policy document regarding sidewalk dining.

Curb Cut Ramp Project:

Michael Rademacher said that the Engineering Department has a list of locations for installation of curb cut ramps. Jack Jones said that the Commission has been awarded an additional \$44,000 in CDBG funding to be added to their balance of \$81,000 for curb cut ramp work. The additional funds will bring the appropriation that the Commission has during FY 2017 to \$125,000.

True Story Theatre:

Susan James said that on May 10, 2016 the True Story Theatre will be performing an event on Stigma. Susan said that the Commission is co-sponsoring this event.

Other Business:

Michael Rademacher said that the thermo plastic marking on Mass. Ave. to designate a handicapped parking space between Egerton Road, and Melrose Street needs to be ground off the asphalt because the handicapped space was placed in the wrong location within this block.

Michael said that on April 13, 2016 there was a public meeting to discuss the second phase of the Mass. Ave. redesign and construction project. Michael said that phase 2 will be from Spy Pond Lane to Mill Street. Michael said this project will focus on sidewalks, improvements to Broadway Plaza, other mobility issues and street lighting. The next meeting to obtain residents input on this project is scheduled for May 5, 2016. A third meeting to discuss progress on this phase of the Mass. Ave. reconstruction will be held on June 16, 2016.

Michael said that a Safe Street Project has begun that will during the summer improve and increase the safety of the connection between the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Bike Way and Swan Place. Michael said that full traffic signals at this crossing did not meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation requirements because of the low amount of traffic traveling out of Swan Place. However Hawk Signals which have two red lights will be installed to help people and bicyclists cross Massachusetts Avenue at this location. Michael said that this new technology may take some time for motorists to become used to.

Michael said that the Commission should develop working groups with a point person within each group to work on issues raised at Commission Meetings.

Maureen St. Hilaire said that she would prepare a spreadsheet on Commission projects.

Beverley Bevilaqua said that she overheard several residents at the Town's Podiatry Clinic talk about the danger of brick sidewalks. Beverley said that Paul Ryan a blind Board Member of the Council on Aging expressed an interest in recommending sidewalk improvements.

Liza Molina said that the Commission should consider developing a list of local businesses in Town that are accessible.

Jack Jones stated that the Recreation Department had requested \$25,000 in CDBG funds to purchase accessible playground equipment but were denied funding. Jack also stated that the I Can Shine Bike Program, a program to teach children with disabilities to ride a bike, requested \$1,200 but was also denied CDBG funding for FY 2017.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.